

the condition of education 2006



INDICATOR 3

Past and Projected Elementary and Secondary Public School Enrollments

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2006*. Therefore, the page numbers may not be sequential.

Additional information about the survey data and supplementary notes can be found in the full report. For a copy of *The Condition of Education 2006*, visit the NCES website (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.sap?pubid=2006071>) or contact ED PUBs at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

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Elementary/Secondary Education

Past and Projected Elementary and Secondary Public School Enrollments

Public elementary and secondary enrollment is projected to increase to 51 million in 2015. The South is projected to experience the largest increase in enrollment.

This indicator looks at the trends in public school enrollment, which have been increasing due to rising immigration—the immigrant population nearly tripled from 1970 to 2000 (Schmidley 2001)—and the baby boom echo—the 25 percent increase in the number of annual births that began in the mid-1970s and peaked in 1990 (Hamilton, Sutton, and Ventura 2003).

After declining during the 1970s and early 1980s to 39.4 million in 1985, public school enrollment in grades prekindergarten (preK) through 12 increased in the latter part of the 1980s, throughout the 1990s, and through the early 2000s and is projected to reach an estimated 48.7 million in 2005 (see supplemental table 3-1). Total public school enrollment is projected to increase each year from 2006 to an all-time high of approximately 51.2 million in 2015. The trends in enrollment in grades preK–8 and 9–12 have differed over time as students move through the system. For example, enrollment in grades preK–8 decreased throughout the 1970s and early 1980s, while enrollment in grades 9–12 decreased in the late 1970s and throughout the 1980s. Public school enrollment in grades

preK–8 is projected to decrease to 33.8 million in 2005 and then to increase, reaching 36.4 million in 2015. Enrollment in grades 9–12 is projected to increase to a high of 15.1 million in 2007 and then to decrease to 14.8 million in 2015.

Examining enrollment trends by region reveals that since 1965 the South has had the largest share of the total public enrollment in the United States. The regional distribution of students in public schools, however, has not remained static: both the West and South have increased their shares of the total U.S. enrollment. Between 1965 and 2005, the proportion of public elementary and secondary enrollment in the South rose from 33 percent to a projected 37 percent, while the share of enrollment in the West rose from 18 percent to a projected 24 percent. In contrast, the share of enrollment in the Midwest fell from 28 percent to a projected 22 percent, and the share of national enrollment in the Northeast fell from 21 percent to a projected 17 percent. Between 2005 and 2015, the number of public school students enrolled in grades preK–12 is expected to continue decreasing in the Northeast and Midwest and to continue increasing in the South and West.

NOTE: Includes kindergarten and most prekindergarten enrollment. Data for years 2001 and 2002 were revised and may differ from previously published figures.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). (forthcoming). *Digest of Education Statistics, 2005* (NCES 2005-030), tables 37 and 40; Hussar, W. (forthcoming). *Projections of Education Statistics to 2015* (NCES 2006-084), table 1; Snyder, T., and Hoffman, C.M. (1995). *State Comparisons of Education Statistics: 1969–70 to 1993–94* (NCES 95-122), tables 10, 11, and 12; and table ESE65, retrieved January 10, 2006, from <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/AnnualReports/reports.asp?type=historicalTables>. Data from U.S. Department of Education, NCES, The NCES Common Core of Data (CCD), "State Nonfiscal Survey of Public Elementary/Secondary Education," 1986–87 to 2003–04 and *Statistics of Public Elementary and Secondary School Systems*, various years, 1965–66 to 1985–86.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Supplemental Notes 1,3

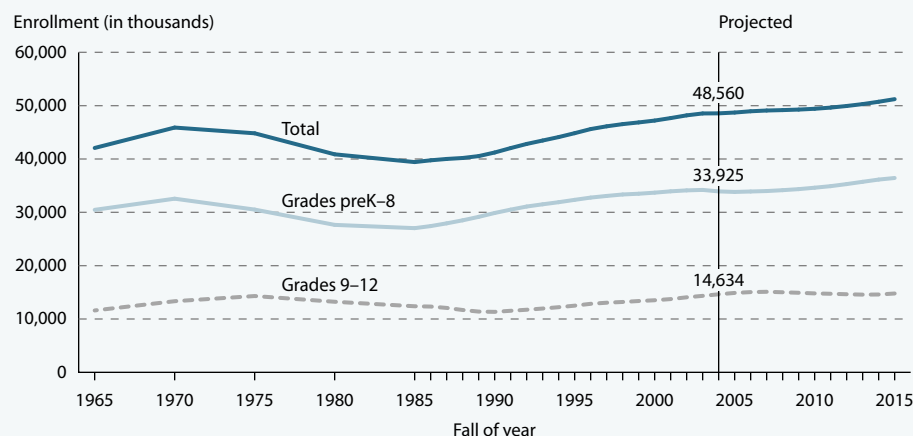
Supplemental Table 3-1

Schmidley 2001

Hamilton, Sutton, and Ventura
2003



SCHOOL ENROLLMENT: Public elementary and secondary school enrollment in prekindergarten through grade 12, by grade level, with projections: Various years, fall 1965–2015



Past and Projected Elementary and Secondary Public School Enrollments

Table 3-1. Public elementary and secondary school enrollment in prekindergarten through grade 12, by grade level and region, with projections: Various years, fall 1965–2015

[Totals in thousands]											
Fall of year	Total enrollment			Total enrollment grades preK–12 by region							
	Grades preK–12	Grades preK–8	Grades 9–12	Northeast		Midwest		South		West	
				Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
1965	42,068	30,466	11,602	8,833	21.0	11,834	28.1	13,834	32.9	7,568	18.0
1970	45,894	32,558	13,336	9,860	21.5	12,936	28.2	14,759	32.2	8,339	18.2
1975	44,819	30,515	14,304	9,679	21.6	12,295	27.4	14,654	32.7	8,191	18.3
1980	40,877	27,647	13,231	8,215	20.1	10,698	26.2	14,134	34.6	7,831	19.2
1985	39,422	27,034	12,388	7,318	18.6	9,862	25.0	14,117	35.8	8,124	20.6
1986	39,753	27,420	12,333	7,294	18.3	9,871	24.8	14,312	36.0	8,276	20.8
1987	40,008	27,933	12,076	7,252	18.1	9,870	24.7	14,419	36.0	8,468	21.2
1988	40,189	28,501	11,687	7,208	17.9	9,846	24.5	14,491	36.1	8,644	21.5
1989	40,543	29,152	11,390	7,200	17.8	9,849	24.3	14,605	36.0	8,889	21.9
1990	41,217	29,878	11,338	7,282	17.7	9,944	24.1	14,807	35.9	9,184	22.3
1991	42,047	30,506	11,541	7,407	17.6	10,080	24.0	15,081	35.9	9,479	22.5
1992	42,823	31,088	11,735	7,526	17.6	10,198	23.8	15,357	35.9	9,742	22.7
1993	43,465	31,504	11,962	7,654	17.6	10,289	23.7	15,591	35.9	9,931	22.8
1994	44,111	31,898	12,213	7,760	17.6	10,386	23.5	15,851	35.9	10,114	22.9
1995	44,840	32,341	12,500	7,894	17.6	10,512	23.4	16,118	35.9	10,316	23.0
1996	45,611	32,764	12,847	8,006	17.6	10,638	23.3	16,373	35.9	10,594	23.2
1997	46,127	33,073	13,054	8,085	17.5	10,704	23.2	16,563	35.9	10,775	23.4
1998	46,539	33,346	13,193	8,145	17.5	10,722	23.0	16,713	35.9	10,959	23.5
1999	46,857	33,488	13,369	8,196	17.5	10,726	22.9	16,842	35.9	11,093	23.7
2000	47,204	33,688	13,515	8,222	17.4	10,730	22.7	17,007	36.0	11,244	23.8
2001	47,672	33,938	13,734	8,250	17.3	10,745	22.5	17,237	36.2	11,440	24.0
2002	48,183	34,116	14,067	8,297	17.2	10,819	22.5	17,471	36.3	11,596	24.1
2003	48,541	34,202	14,338	8,292	17.1	10,809	22.3	17,673	36.4	11,766	24.2
Projected											
2004	48,560	33,925	14,634	8,252	17.0	10,752	22.1	17,735	36.5	11,820	24.3
2005	48,710	33,823	14,887	8,222	16.9	10,774	22.1	17,860	36.7	11,854	24.3
2006	48,948	33,906	15,042	8,187	16.7	10,774	22.0	18,055	36.9	11,931	24.4
2007	49,091	33,990	15,101	8,136	16.6	10,748	21.9	18,213	37.1	11,994	24.4
2008	49,167	34,154	15,013	8,071	16.4	10,702	21.8	18,369	37.4	12,025	24.5
2009	49,267	34,350	14,917	8,006	16.3	10,659	21.6	18,536	37.6	12,067	24.5
2010	49,415	34,618	14,797	7,949	16.1	10,631	21.5	18,708	37.9	12,127	24.5
2011	49,637	34,907	14,730	7,904	15.9	10,619	21.4	18,911	38.1	12,203	24.6
2012	49,938	35,297	14,641	7,875	15.8	10,626	21.3	19,145	38.3	12,292	24.6
2013	50,294	35,724	14,569	7,861	15.6	10,654	21.2	19,380	38.5	12,398	24.7
2014	50,735	36,142	14,593	7,863	15.5	10,696	21.1	19,649	38.7	12,527	24.7
2015	51,220	36,439	14,780	7,879	15.4	10,744	21.0	19,920	38.9	12,676	24.7

NOTE: Includes kindergarten and most prekindergarten enrollment. Data for years 2001 and 2002 were revised and may differ from previous published figures. Details may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). (forthcoming). *Digest of Education Statistics, 2005* (NCES 2005-030), tables 37 and 40; Hussar, W. (forthcoming). *Projections of Education Statistics to 2015* (NCES 2006-084), tables 1 and 4; Snyder, T., and Hoffman, C.M. (1995). *State Comparisons of Education Statistics: 1969–70 to 1993–94* (NCES 95-122), tables 10, 11, and 12; and table ESE65, retrieved January 10, 2006, from <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/AnnualReports/reports.asp?type=historicalTables>. Data from U.S. Department of Education, NCES, The NCES Common Core of Data (CCD), "State Nonfiscal Survey of Public Elementary/Secondary Education," 1986–87 to 2003–04 and *Statistics of Public Elementary and Secondary School Systems*, various years, 1965–66 to 1985–86.